

REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the Final Office Action mailed February 17, 2005. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16, and 18-19 have been canceled. Claims 5, 9, 13, 17, and 20 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 5, 9, 13, and 17 as dependent on rejected base claims but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5, 9, and 13 have all been rewritten to incorporate all claims upon which they depend and are respectfully submitted to be in allowable form.

Prior to this amendment, claim 17 recited "a method as claimed in claim 12 or 13." Claim 17 has been split into two claims, claim 17 and claim 20, in order to re-create these multiple dependencies. Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate all elements of claims 12 and 15, upon which it depended. Claim 17 is submitted to be in allowable form.

New claim 20 incorporates all of the elements of claims 17, 13, 12, and 15 and is respectfully submitted as allowable by virtue of the Examiner's statement that claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

Application No.: 10/018,622

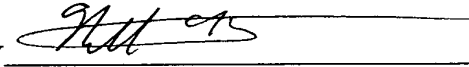
Docket No.: METLOG 3.3-005

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: May 17, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By



Matthew E. Hanley

Registration No.: 51,773

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicant

559928_1.DOC